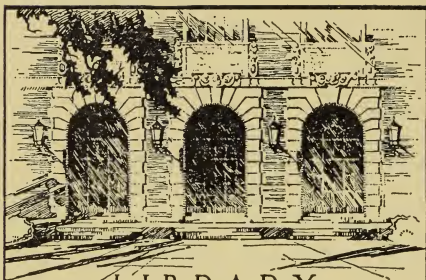


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INDIANA JOURNAL

STRUGGLES IN THE
OLD NORTHWEST AND
KENTUCKY

(1954)



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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

Struggles
in the Old
Northwest
and
Canada

BY J. M. C. C.

*Struggles
in the Old
Northwest
and
Kentucky*



Struggles in the Old Northwest and Kentucky

Prepared by the Staff of the
Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County
1954

One of a historical series, this pamphlet is published under the direction of the governing Boards of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County.

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FOREWORD

The following articles were originally published in the Indianapolis INDIANA JOURNAL on June 8 and June 29, 1833. The Boards and the Staff of the Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County present these newspaper items in the hope that they will prove interesting. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation have been changed to conform to current usage. Unverified personal names have been reprinted as in the original articles.

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After Columbus discovered the Western Hemisphere, more than a century elapsed before any permanent English or French settlements were made in North America. The colony of Virginia was founded by the English in 1607, and the next year the French planted their first colony in Canada. For some time the English settlements were confined to the vicinity of the coast, while the French gradually extended theirs along the St. Lawrence River and around the Great Lakes. No white man explored what is now called the western country before 1673. In that year Jacques Marquette, a French missionary, set out from a mission which he had established two years before on the north shore of the Straits of Mackinac. By way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, he reached the Mississippi and descended that river to the mouth of the Arkansas. Satisfied from its course that the Mississippi emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, he thought it unwise to proceed further. After returning to Canada by way of the Illinois River and Lake Michigan, he resided among the Indians until his death in 1675.

In 1679 La Salle, who at that time commanded Fort Frontenac at the foot of Lake Ontario, built a vessel on Lake Erie and called it the "Griffon." After sailing through the Lakes, he disembarked somewhere near Green Bay, Wisconsin. The "Griffon" was to have returned to Fort Frontenac, but it disappeared. Later, La Salle reached the Mississippi by way of the Illinois River and descended to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1683 he took passage for France. On his return he disembarked on the shore of the Gulf and was murdered by one of his own party while traveling overland to the Illinois country. An account of the expedition was published by Father Louis Hennepin, a missionary who accompanied La Salle on his explorations. La Salle and his party probably saw nothing of what is now the state of Ohio, although occasional landings may have been made on the shore of Lake Erie. French missionaries soon began to traverse the country through which La Salle had passed, and the French government gradually established military posts on the Lakes. Several settlements were also made on the Mississippi above

the mouth of the Ohio, and about 1735 one was made at Vincennes on the Wabash River.

The French and the English governments, however, took very little notice of the country on the headwaters of the Ohio River until about the middle of the eighteenth century. Both countries claimed it, but neither took steps to occupy it. The French considered that they had the better right to the region; they had been the first to explore it, and it was situated as a kind of connecting link between their possessions in Canada and Louisiana. But the French were satisfied to cross the country as long as they were undisturbed by the English. They took no further steps to establish their claim, and they made no settlements other than those on the Mississippi and Wabash rivers. The English claim was founded on royal charters granted to the colonies along the Atlantic coast. These grants often included all the country west of the settlements to the Pacific Ocean. But the English claim, like that of the French, was not carried into effect by actual occupation of the territory.

In 1749, however, both nations began to realize the importance of this vast area and prepared to establish their respective claims. In that year the governor general of Canada sent out an expedition to deposit leaden plates at the mouths of rivers and other important places in the disputed territory, thereby asserting the right of the king of France to all the country drained by the Ohio River and its branches. At about the same time, the Ohio Company of Virginia was formed. George II granted to this company five hundred thousand acres of land on the Ohio and a virtual monopoly of the Indian trade. The company soon sent out surveyors and traders, who established Pickawillany on the Great Miami River. This was the first establishment made by the British in the Ohio Valley. The settlement was destroyed in 1752 by the French, who carried the prisoners to a new French fort at Presque Isle (present-day Erie, Pennsylvania). The French also built a fort on the Allegheny River and began to establish themselves with such vigor in the disputed area that Pennsylvania and Virginia became alarmed.



...La Salle was murdered...

W.H.

In 1753 George Washington was sent by Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia with a letter to the French commandant. Dinwiddie remonstrated against French occupation of land claimed by the king of Great Britain. The French disregarded the protest and in 1754 built Fort Duquesne where Pittsburgh now stands at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. During the French and Indian War the French evacuated Fort Duquesne in 1758. By the Treaty of Paris in 1763, France surrendered Canada to England and renounced all of her claims to any part of the country east of the Mississippi River.

Between the end of the French and Indian War and the beginning of the American Revolution, permanent settlements were made across the Allegheny Mountains in western Pennsylvania and Virginia, but none were made in Ohio. Soon after the outbreak of the Revolution, questions arose regarding the ownership of unappropriated land claimed by the several colonies. Because the views held by the government of Virginia differed from those of the Continental Congress, the Virginia legislature enacted a law prohibiting settlement northwest of the Ohio River. This law was designed to obviate any difficulties or jealousies which might arise before ownership was finally determined. It was claimed in Congress that the lands were acquired from the British government and were maintained and defended by the blood and treasure of all the states; therefore, the area should belong to all the states in common and should be a source from which the expenses of acquisition might be regained. The sovereignty and the possessions of the crown were said to have been transferred to the Continental Congress, the supreme governmental power of the American commonwealth. It would be unfair for one state to receive a larger share of land than another state, for each had contributed equally toward its acquisition.

Virginia resisted this claim on the ground that the territorial limits of the states must be those which were prescribed and defined in their respective charters as colonies; boundaries could be determined by no other means. To de-

prive a state of any territory would be an infringement of state sovereignty and a violation of the Articles of Confederation. Virginia declared its willingness, however, to supply free lands in the Old Northwest to veterans of the Revolution from states which had no unappropriated lands. Virginia's offer was made on the condition that other states which owned western land would contribute their proportions in the same manner. After considerable agitation, jealousy, and uneasiness, Virginia agreed in 1784 to cede its jurisdiction over the Old Northwest to the United States but retained the right to grant land to its own soldiers in the area between the Little Miami and the Scioto rivers. Virginia's claim extended to the forty-first parallel; Connecticut claimed jurisdiction over the area north of that line, which included part of the present state of Ohio. Connecticut surrendered her claim to the area to the general government in 1786, except the district known as the Western Reserve. Jurisdiction over the Western Reserve was also ceded in 1800, but Connecticut retained ownership of the land. In this manner, the Old Northwest became the property of the general government.

While the settlement of the territory north of the Ohio River was delayed, Daniel Boone and those who followed him were establishing themselves in Kentucky. That country was not inhabited by Indians but was a kind of common hunting ground used by the tribes north and south of it. It was frequently the scene of battles when hostile parties happened to meet. At that time the Indians were not in a state of determined hostility toward the whites, but they soon began to consider the pioneers intruders and to be alarmed at their encroachment on the hunting grounds. The Indians realized that the destruction and dispersion of the game, upon which they relied for subsistence, was a certain consequence of the coming of settlers. The Indians soon determined to oppose the occupation of the country and to expel or destroy the settlers. In the ensuing struggle, the Kentuckians found dangerous and determined enemies in the Indians from north of the Ohio. Many events of this struggle may be considered

part of the history of Ohio, which was then inhabited by hostile tribes and was frequently the scene of conflict. Forays of Indians into Kentucky were usually followed by retaliatory expeditions into Indian country; injuries inflicted upon residents on one side of the river were avenged by reprisals upon residents on the other side of the river.

One of the principal Indian towns in Ohio was the Shawnee capital, Chillicothe, located on the Little Miami River. In 1772 Captain Thomas Bullitt visited Chillicothe on his way down the Ohio River to the falls. He and his party from Virginia intended to survey and settle on the site of Louisville, Kentucky. Bullitt knew that the Shawnee claimed the land around the falls as their hunting ground and that it would be important for them to approve the settlement rather than to consider it an intrusion. Therefore, he left his party on the Ohio River and proceeded alone to Chillicothe. Without sending any notice of his approach and without being seen, Bullitt arrived at the town and displayed a white flag as a token of peace.

The inhabitants, surprised at the sudden appearance of a strange ambassador among them, gathered around him. They asked him what news he brought, where he came from, and why he had not sent a runner before him to give notice of his approach. He answered that he had no bad news, that he had come from the long knives (the common Indian appellation for Virginians), and that he proposed to talk with his brothers about living on the south side of the Ohio River. Bullitt explained to the Shawnee that he had not sent a runner because he did not have one as swift as himself. If he had sent one, he would have been forced to await the runner's return. He ended with a question in the Indian manner: if one of them killed a deer and was very hungry, would he send his squaw to the town to tell the news and not eat until she returned?

The idea pleased the Indians, and Bullitt was taken to their principal wigwam and regaled with venison. After the feast, the warriors convened, and Bullitt told them that he desired to settle on the south side of the Ohio River and cul-



The inhabitants gathered around Bullitt.

tivate the land. He declared that the settlement would not interfere with hunting and trapping, and he expressed his wish that the two races might live together as brothers and friends. After a consultation, the Shawnee consented to the proposed settlement and professed their satisfaction at Bullitt's promises not to disturb their hunting. The agreement was satisfactory to both parties, and Captain Bullitt proceeded with his group to the falls, where they selected and surveyed their lands. The pioneers then returned to Virginia to make the necessary preparations for permanent settlement, but Bullitt died before this was accomplished.

Notwithstanding the pacific disposition of the Indians at the time of Bullitt's visit, it was not long until they became hostile. Near the mouth of the Kanawha River in April, 1774, white men murdered the family of the Indian chief known by his English name of James or John Logan. About the same time, the Indians became alarmed at the increasing numbers of adventurers in Kentucky. At length they attacked the surveyors who were selecting and locating lands. Some white men were killed, and others were forced to return to Virginia. A general war ensued along the headwaters of the Ohio and Kanawha rivers. To check the Indians in that area, an army of nearly three thousand men was raised in Virginia. One division of fifteen hundred men, *commanded by Colonel Andrew Lewis, was dispatched to the mouth of the Kanawha; the other division, commanded by Governor John Dunmore, was directed to a higher point on the Ohio.

When the division under Colonel Lewis arrived at the junction of the Kanawha and the Ohio rivers, it was attacked by a strong force of Shawnee, Delaware, and Mingo Indians. The battle commenced at sunrise on October 10, 1774, and lasted until sunset, when the whites were left in possession of the field with approximately fifty men killed and one hundred wounded. About two hundred Indians were killed. On the evening after the fight, a runner arrived from Governor Dunmore, who did not know of the battle. He ordered Colonel Lewis' division to join his command in the neighborhood of the Shawnee towns. Colonel Lewis crossed the Ohio and

was proceeding according to his orders when he was met by another runner with the information that a treaty had been concluded with the Indians; all lands south of the Ohio River had been ceded to the whites. It was at that conference that Governor Dunmore received the celebrated speech from the Mingo chief, Logan. Logan explained that he had taken part in the war to avenge the unprovoked murder of his family by Colonel Michael Cresap.

The treaty made by Lord Dunmore did not protect the adventurers in Kentucky from further Indian hostility; the savages continued to infest the country and to murder or carry into captivity everyone falling into their power. Settlers barricaded themselves in stockades, and every attempt to procure game for food was at the risk of life or liberty. Indians were constantly prowling and lurking about the forts, so that no one felt secure outside the walls. Large numbers of Indians sometimes besieged the forts for several days and made determined efforts to destroy them.

During the Revolutionary War, the hostility of the savages was stimulated and increased by the British who occupied the posts on the Lakes. The British thought that the miseries and horrors of a bloody and unrelenting Indian warfare on the frontier would be the most effective means of defeating the colonies. The Indians were incited by promises of rewards for all the scalps they could take; at the same time, they were reminded of the necessity of destroying the settlers, whose encroachments were depriving them of their homes and hunting grounds. The British were not content, however, merely with inciting the Indians; frequently, they joined in the incursions and aided the Indians with their experience in European warfare. Combinations of Indians and British were frequently more formidable to the Americans than were much larger numbers of Indians unaided by their civilized allies. The Kentuckians were, of course, particularly exposed to all these attacks, for they were in the midst of their enemies and beyond the efficient aid of their friends. In 1777 the Indians made determined efforts to destroy the three settlements in Kentucky; Harrodsburg was besieged

once, Boonesborough and Logan's Fort twice. Although the garrisons withstood the sieges, the pioneers experienced great hardships.

While hunting game for men who were making salt at the Lower Blue Licks in February, 1778, Daniel Boone was captured by nearly one hundred Indians on their way to attack Boonesborough. Unable to escape, Boone promised the surrender of the men at the Licks; twenty-seven became prisoners. The Indians, elated with their success, returned home in great triumph instead of attacking Boonesborough. Boone and his companions were taken to Chillicothe, and in March he and ten others were moved to Detroit. The commandant, Governor Henry Hamilton, wished to ransom Boone, but the Indians would not agree. They had become fond of him and had decided to adopt him. Soon they returned with Boone to Chillicothe but left his ten companions in Detroit. He was adopted into one of the principal families and became a great favorite because of his skill with a rifle and his judicious conduct. In June, he was sent with a party to make salt at the Scioto salt springs. When they returned to Chillicothe, Boone found 450 armed and painted warriors ready to attack Boonesborough.

The imminent danger of his friends and their certain capture if surprised and unprepared determined him to warn them at the hazard of his life. Concealing food for a single meal in his blanket, Boone went out as if to hunt, as he was permitted to do. Four days later he arrived in Boonesborough. He had traveled 160 miles without even taking time to kill an animal for food. Boone found the fort in a bad state of repair, but no time was lost in making arrangements to repel the enemy. The Indians, however, delayed their expedition for about three weeks because of Boone's escape.

Later another escaped prisoner reported the decision of the Indians to postpone their invasion; Boone and nineteen other men seized the opportunity to attack a town, also named Chillicothe, on Paint Creek. Within four miles of that place, Boone and his men met thirty Indians who were on their way to join the grand army marching against Boonesborough.

Simon Kenton, whose name is almost as celebrated in the annals of Kentucky as is that of Daniel Boone, was serving as a scout in advance of Boone's party. Hearing loud laughter in a thicket, Kenton concealed himself behind a tree. Two Indians, talking and laughing in fine humor, were riding on the same horse toward him. When they had approached sufficiently near, he aimed at the breast of the foremost and fired. The ball killed the first Indian and wounded the second. Kenton immediately rushed up to tomahawk the wounded Indian, but he heard a rustling in the bushes and turned in time to see two other Indians aiming their rifles at him. As he sprang aside, the balls whistled by his ears. He flew to the nearest tree for protection and in a moment saw about a dozen Indians approaching. At this critical juncture the Kentuckians came up, and the Indians fled. The Indian whom Kenton had killed was left on the ground, and two of those who fled were wounded.

After the rout of the enemy, Boone sent two spies to reconnoiter the town, which was found to be deserted. Concluding that the Indian force must be on the way to attack Boonesborough, Boone realized that the force might reach the fort before his return. He marched his men day and night, and on the sixth of September they came upon the trail of the enemy. Taking a circuit to avoid the Indians, Boone arrived at the fort on the seventh; the Indians arrived the next day. The garrison had less than fifty men, while the Indians numbered between five and seven hundred and were led by Captain Du Quesne of the British service.

The fort was surrounded and called upon to surrender in the name of the king of England. Boone demanded two days to consider the proposal and immediately called a council of all the men in the fort. They resolved unanimously to defend themselves to the last. They herded their cattle and horses into the fort and strengthened their defenses. When the two days had passed, they announced their decision. Du Quesne continued to impress upon them the advantages of a treaty and made further proposals. Negotiations were continued for another day, terms were agreed upon, and a



Kenton turned in time.....

treaty was signed. But the whole proceeding was a trick! After the treaty had been concluded about sixty yards from the gate of the fort, two Indians approached each white man and, under pretense of shaking hands with him, attempted to drag him off as a prisoner. Every white man extricated himself and, except for one who was wounded, reached the fort safely as the soldiers inside fired upon the pursuing Indians. The fort was then vigorously attacked. During the nine-day siege which followed the first onslaught, the enemy made numerous unsuccessful attempts to set the cabins afire and to undermine the walls of the fort. At length the Indians abandoned the siege and returned home with thirty-seven braves killed and a considerable number wounded. Two Kentuckians were killed and four wounded.

INDIANA JOURNAL, June 8, 1833

After the siege of Boonesborough was raised, Colonel John Bowman of Kentucky proposed a retaliatory expedition against Chillicothe. It was not undertaken, however, until the following year. In the meantime, Simon Kenton, George Clark, and Alexander Montgomery were sent to Chillicothe to gather information for use in planning the attack. The spies arrived at Chillicothe without being discovered, walked around the houses at night, and carefully examined everything. When they came to an enclosure where the Indians had penned their horses, the temptation to carry them off was irresistible. They succeeded in placing halters on a number of horses, but some animals made so much noise that the Indians were awakened. The whole village was soon in an uproar as the inhabitants rushed out to save their property. Kenton and his friends grabbed the halters of the horses they had secured and commenced their flight. Two men led the way, and the third rode in the rear with a whip, urging

the horses forward at full speed. Soon they had far outdistanced their pursuers. After riding all of the following day and night, they arrived on the banks of the Ohio River. A whole day was spent in endeavoring to force the horses to swim the river. During a last and still unavailing effort the next morning, several of the horses got away and turned homeward. Unwilling to give them up, the Kentuckians pursued the horses and were soon discovered by the Indians. Kenton was captured, Montgomery was killed, and Clark escaped.

The incensed Indians commenced to beat Kenton with their ramrods and to call him "thief," "rascal," and, as the worst epithet of all, "white man." Finally, they began the return to Chillicothe. At night they secured Kenton by making him lie on his back with a pole placed across his breast and tied to his outstretched arms. His feet were tied to stakes driven into the ground, and a rope was passed around his neck and tied to a sapling. Combining sport with revenge, the Indians once tied Kenton's hands behind him and placed him on an unbroken colt. After tying his feet under the belly of the animal, they turned it loose with a sudden lash. Kenton expected to be torn to pieces in the brushy country; but after bucking for some time to the great amusement of the Indians, the colt fell in line with the other horses and was quiet the remainder of the day.

The party halted within a few miles of Chillicothe, and a messenger was sent forward to inform the inhabitants of their approach. Kenton and the Indians were met about a mile from the town by its whole population--men, women, and children. Whooping, yelling, and clapping their hands, they demanded that Kenton be tied to the stake. This was soon done. Then the howling, screaming Indians danced around him until midnight, cuffing and striking him with switches and keeping him in momentary expectation of being tortured to death by fire. At last he was unbound and taken to the village. Early the next morning he was brought out to run the gauntlet. Braves, squaws, and children, armed with clubs, switches, and similar weapons, formed two long rows



The Indians danced around him.....

extending to the council house, where an Indian stood with a drum to give the starting signal. Kenton was ordered to run between the lines to the council house. After the signal was given, he ran a short distance and then burst through the lines. All the Indians rushed after him in disorderly pursuit, but by running in a semicircle Kenton reached the door of the council house with little injury. A council decided not to burn him immediately but to exhibit him first in other towns. Kenton was accordingly marched from town to town and was compelled to run the gauntlet eight times. He could only expect to end his sufferings by a death of torture.

On one occasion Kenton made a desperate attempt to escape. As the Indians guarding him approached a town, they announced their arrival by firing their guns and by giving the scalp halloo. When they were answered by a drum in the town, Kenton suddenly burst from his guards and sprang into the bushes. He was immediately followed by the whole party, some on horseback and some on foot. Kenton had considerably outdistanced his pursuers when he was recaptured by a party of Indians from the town.

At the village of Wakatomica, the warriors assembled in the council house to determine Kenton's fate. Among the Indians were Simon Girty and several other white renegades who had adopted the savage way of life. They were noted for surpassing, if possible, the Indians themselves in the cruelty and inhumanity with which they treated prisoners. Girty and Kenton had served together as scouts in Dunmore's expedition, but that was before Girty had received the mortal offense which made him the implacable enemy of his countrymen. At that time, Simon Kenton was known only by the assumed name of Simon Butler.

When Kenton entered the council house at Wakatomica, Girty did not recognize him. Girty threw a blanket upon the floor and harshly ordered him to sit down upon it. When Kenton did not comply with the order immediately, Girty seized him violently and jerked him down. He then began to question Kenton about conditions in Kentucky and the number of men who were there. He inquired about particular indi-



Girty embraced Kenton.....

viduals whom he had known, and at length he asked the prisoner his name. When Kenton answered "Simon Butler," Girty recognized his old companion and friend. Feelings of friendship revived, and Girty became so violently excited that at length he rushed forward and embraced Kenton with much emotion. In a short and energetic speech, Girty told the astonished Indians of his old companionship and friendship with the prisoner and entreated them to grant Kenton's life. He asked to be spared the agony of witnessing the torture of his old comrade. Girty claimed this favor was due him for his faithful services and his zealous devotion to the Indian cause. After listening to him in silence and after holding a long, animated, and earnest debate, the Indians voted to grant Girty's request.

When Kenton was set at liberty, Girty took him to his own wigwam and clothed him; for some time the Indians treated him as one of themselves. But when the chiefs in some of the neighboring towns heard that Kenton had been saved from the stake, they were very dissatisfied and demanded that another council be held to reconsider his release. All Girty's influence and efforts were unavailing, and he was forced to acquiesce. Those who desired Kenton's execution triumphed. The prisoner was condemned to be burned at Sandusky, where he was conducted by a guard. On the way, an Indian in a paroxysm of fury sank a tomahawk into Kenton's shoulder and almost severed his arm from his body. The morning after the arrival at Sandusky was selected as the time for the execution.

When hope had deserted him and death seemed at hand, Kenton was saved by the intervention of a British Indian agent named Drew-year. He prevailed upon the Indians to let him take Kenton to Detroit, where the English commander might obtain information from him about Kentucky. Drew-year promised the Indians that Kenton would again be returned to them after the information had been obtained. On the way to Detroit, however, the agent informed Kenton that he would not be handed over to the Indians again. In Detroit Kenton was allowed his freedom but was required to report once a

day at the time of the parade of the garrison. In June, 1779, Kenton devised a plan of escape with two young men who had been captured the previous spring at Blue Licks with Boone. After procuring arms and ammunition, they escaped at night; by taking a circuitous course, they arrived safely in Louisville thirty days later.

In July, 1779, the expedition which the settlers had planned against Chillicothe the previous year was begun. The Shawnee who inhabited the towns on the Mad River were noted for the bitterness of their hostility toward the Kentuckians and for the frequency of their invasions. It was decided, therefore, to carry the war into Shawnee territory. About 160 men assembled at Harrodsburg and placed themselves under the command of Colonel John Bowman; the next officer in command was Captain Logan. They arrived near Chillicothe in the evening of the second day after they had crossed the Ohio River at the mouth of the Licking River. The Indians were unaware of their approach. After scouts had reported the exact location of the town, the party divided. Logan commanded one detachment, and Bowman led the other. The attack was to begin shortly before daybreak. The divisions were to march around opposite sides of the village and were to encircle it completely. When the front lines of the two divisions met, the attack was to commence.

Logan followed the plan and directed his men to conceal themselves in the grass and weeds until they received the signal for the attack, but no orders arrived. In the meantime, a dog began to bark. A warrior walked cautiously towards the place of Logan's concealment, looking for the object of the dog's alarm. Logan's men hoped to capture the Indian noiselessly, but suddenly one of Bowman's party fired a gun. The Indian gave a whoop and ran back to the town. The Indians immediately ran to the largest cabin and prepared to defend it. The men of Logan's detachment seized the deserted houses and soon established themselves within range of the cabin in which the Indians were collected. Both sides kept up a rapid fire. Logan then ordered a movable breastwork made of the floors and doors of cabins. It was

to be pushed forward against the Indian stronghold. As Logan was making these preparations, Colonel Bowman ordered him to retreat. The withdrawal became difficult and dangerous, for the men were exposed to Indian fire. Several men were killed.

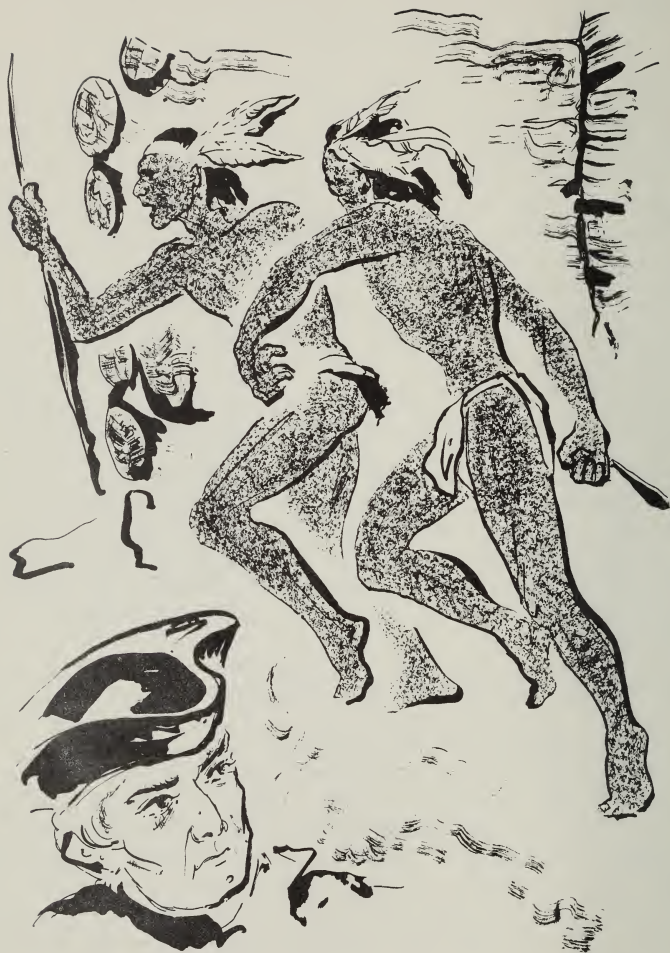
At length Logan's command rejoined Bowman's force, which had not moved during the attack. For some unknown reason, Bowman and his men had done nothing toward the fulfillment of their part of the plan of attack. Bowman himself appeared to have lost all energy and self-command and seemed incapable of meeting the emergency. No course was left but to retreat with all possible speed. The captains attempted to restore order, and the march began. A short time later the Indians surrounded them and kept up a hot and galling fire. A detachment soon repelled the enemy; but as soon as the Kentuckians proceeded, they were again surrounded and attacked. The Indians were compelled to retire on every occasion, but it soon became evident from the frequent and continued attacks that the enemy was endeavoring merely to harass and impede their progress. When reinforcements arrived from the other villages, the Indians would be strong enough to destroy the entire white force. Therefore, Logan and the other officers decided to attack. All the mounted men dashed in among the Indians, searched the woods in every direction, and completely dispersed the enemy. Continuing their retreat unmolested, the men descended the Little Miami River to the mouth, crossed the Ohio, and arrived home. Nine men had been killed and several wounded.

Early in 1780, the British at Detroit prepared to send a powerful expedition into Kentucky to destroy the settlements. In May of that year, a prisoner named Chaplin escaped from Detroit and arrived at Harrodsburg with the first news of the intended invasion. The British planned to collect a strong Indian force and supplement it with British and Canadian troops and artillery under the command of Colonel Henry Bird. The first blow was to be struck at Louisville; then the other stations were to be destroyed systematically.

On the basis of information given by Chaplin, the Kentuckians supposed that the enemy could not arrive before the last of July, and they made their preparations accordingly.

The season was wet, however, and Colonel Bird gave up his design of attacking Louisville first. He took advantage of the swollen streams to transport cannon and stores by water. Reaching Kentucky earlier than anticipated, he descended the Miami River and ascended the Licking River to the forks. Here he erected some huts to protect his baggage from the weather and then marched by land against Ruddle's Station, a small stockade on the south side of the river. He arrived there on the twenty-second of June with a force in excess of six hundred men and six pieces of artillery. The first intimation the garrison had of the British approach was the sound of cannon. Bird then demanded the surrender of the fort. Aware of their inability to defend themselves against so large a force, the garrison capitulated with the express condition that the inhabitants should be prisoners of the British and not of the Indians. As soon, however, as the gates were opened, the Indians rushed into the fort and seized all those within as prisoners. Bird was unable to restrain them, and the captives were distributed among the savage conquerors. The horror of the situation was increased by the separation of members of families--wives were torn from their husbands, and children from their parents.

When the prisoners and the plunder had been divided, the Indians proposed to attack Martin's Station, which was five miles away and as defenseless as Ruddle's Station. Colonel Bird refused to march against it, however, until the Indians agreed to take only plunder and leave the prisoners entirely under British control. After this agreement had been made, they proceeded against Martin's Station and took it without opposition. The prisoners were taken by the British, and the Indians did not violate their agreement. The red men were so elated with their success that they pressed Colonel Bird to lead them against Bryan's Station and Lexington, which they could probably have captured with little



The Indians rushed into the fort

difficulty. Colonel Bird, however, was afraid that the waters would recede and make it very difficult for him to reach the Ohio River with his artillery. He declined to attack Lexington, returned to his boats at the forks of the Licking River, and descended to the Ohio River. There the Indians left him and dispersed. Bird then ascended the Great Miami River as far as it was navigable and, after hiding his artillery, marched by land to Detroit.

Among the prisoners taken at Ruddle's Station was Captain John Hinkston, a courageous and experienced hunter and woodsman. When the Indians encamped on the second night after leaving the forks of the Licking River, they encountered considerable difficulty in building fires. Everything was wet, and it was dark before the fires were burning. While the attention of the guards was distracted, Hinkston sprang into the woods and immediately disappeared from sight. When the alarm was given, the Indians dispersed in every direction, for they did not know which way the prisoner had gone. Hinkston ran only a short distance and then lay down by a large log to conceal himself until the tumult had subsided and the pursuit was nearly abandoned. He then continued his flight but lost his way in the darkness. After traveling a considerable distance, he found himself again close to the Indian camp. Unable to see the stars or the moss on the trees, Hinkston found it difficult to direct his course. But he knew that the wind blew from the west, which was the direction he wished to go. By dipping his hand in water and holding it above his head, he could feel the direction of the wind. In this way he directed his course toward the west. After traveling most of the night, he sat down beneath a tree and fell asleep. In the morning a very thick fog saved Hinkston from again falling into the hands of the enemy. Close around him he heard Indians imitating the cries of different beasts and birds. After having baffled all pursuit for several days, he arrived in Lexington with the first news of the capture of Ruddle's Station.

The alarm of Bird's invasion into Kentucky soon gave way to a determination to avenge the injury done by the ene-



He sat down and fell asleep

my. An expedition was planned to destroy the Indian towns on the Little Miami and Mad rivers. It was decided that Colonel Logan's force should join General George Rogers Clark's volunteers and regular troops at the mouth of the Licking River. When the junction was effected on July 26, 1780, the army consisted of 970 men and some artillery. On August 2, the march was started from the site of the present city of Cincinnati. On the afternoon of the sixth they arrived at Chillicothe, which they found abandoned. Warned of the approaching army, the Indians had set fire to their houses and fled. The troops encamped on the ground that night; on the following day they cut down several hundred acres of corn around the town before resuming the march in the afternoon.

The next objective was the Indian town of Piqua, located on the northwest side of the Mad River about eight miles from Springfield and twelve miles from Chillicothe. After the army had marched only about a mile, a violent thunderstorm developed and continued until nearly dark and forced the army to encamp. To keep their arms in order, one company was directed to fire their guns; after they had reloaded, another company on the opposite side of the encampment fired. The firing continued until all the guns had been discharged and reloaded. It was afterward learned that the Indians had intended to attack them that night, but after hearing the firing, they deferred the encounter because of the vigilant precautions taken by the American army.

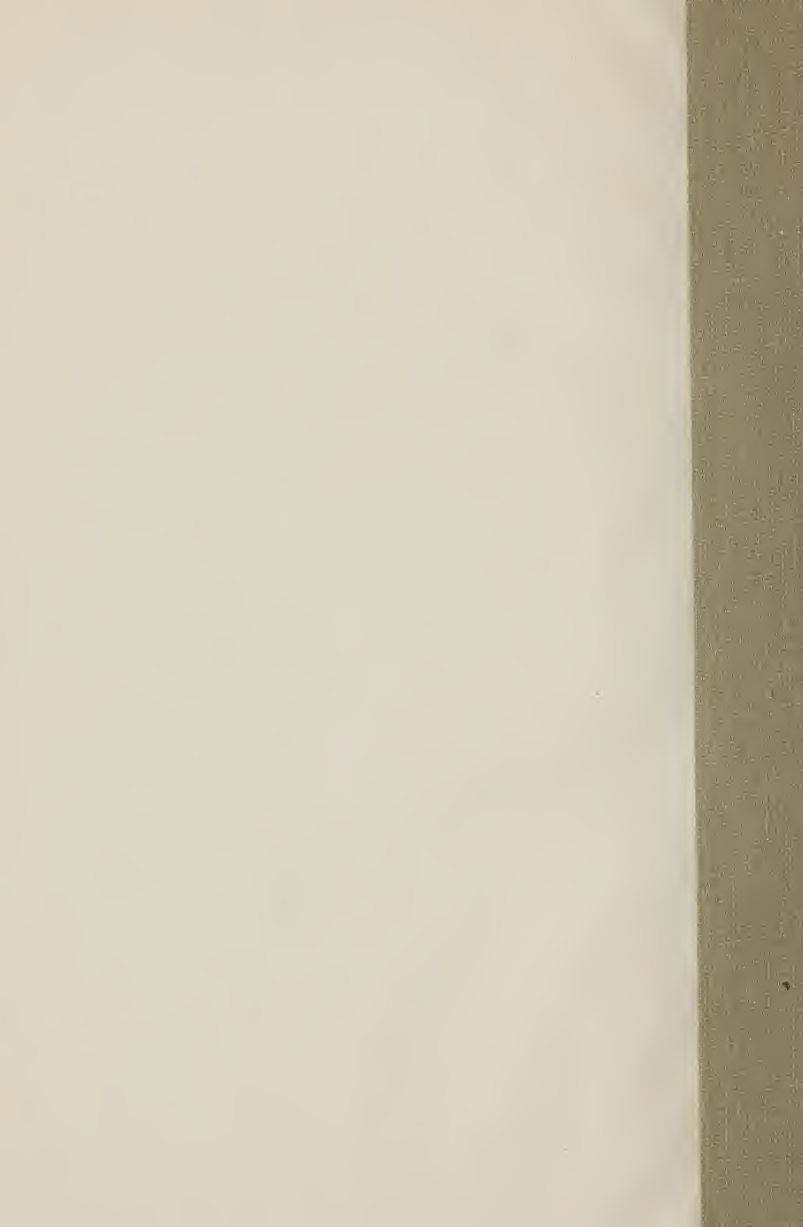
At sunrise on the morning of the eighth, the march was resumed, and at two o'clock the army arrived in sight of Piqua. The road from Chillicothe crossed the Mad River about a quarter of a mile below Piqua. This town extended up the river for about three miles with the houses sometimes more than twenty rods apart. As soon as the first ranks had crossed the river into the prairie, they were attacked by the enemy concealed in the grass and weeds. Realizing that a general engagement was imminent, Clark ordered Colonel Logan with about four hundred men to go up the east side of the river and to cross above the town. Clark was unaware that Piqua extended as far as it did. The object of the move-

ment was to prevent the Indians from escaping by hemming them in between the two divisions of the army; its effect, however, was to cause the battle to be fought entirely by the division under Clark's immediate command. The fighting was over before Logan's detachment reached its destination; his men did not see an Indian or fire a gun.

While Logan was going up the river, another division under Colonels John Floyd, William Lynn, and William Harrod was ordered to cross the river and to encompass the town on the west side. General Clark and Colonel Thomas Slaughter were to march with the artillery directly toward the village. Floyd and his men crossed two hundred yards of open prairie in order to reach the woodland and avoid enemy fire. When the Indians endeavored to turn toward the left, Floyd and Lynn executed a corresponding movement. The attempts of each army to outflank the other extended the line of battle more than a mile from the river. The engagement was warmly contested until about five o'clock in the afternoon, when the Indians suddenly gave way and disappeared.

Clark's army found abundant provisions already cooked and left almost untouched. It appeared that the Indians were just commencing their meal when the army arrived. The day after the battle was spent in destroying corn and vegetables, in burning cabins, and in collecting horses; the next day the army returned to Chillicothe, where it encamped for the night. After destroying a field of corn which had been left for the horses, the army began its homeward march on the eleventh of August. When it reached the mouth of Licking River, the army disbanded, and the pioneer soldiers returned to their homes. The success of the campaign was of the utmost importance. A defeat would have been disastrous to the settlers in Kentucky.

INDIANA JOURNAL, June 29, 1833



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